

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Status of the Claims And Explanation Of Amendments

Claims 21-29 are pending. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowance of claims 24-29. Claims 21-23, however, were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,619,803 B2 to Takazawa et al. ("Takazawa").

Respectfully, Applicant asserts that this rejection is now moot as claims 21-23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant expressly reserves the right to re-present these claims in a future, related application. In addition, new claims 30-37 have been added. Support for these claims is found throughout the originally filed specification. Furthermore, these claims are asserted to be patentably distinct from Takazawa. Allowance is requested.

Appl. No. 10/629,113
Paper dated June 4, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated February 26, 2004

CONCLUSION

For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-4862US1.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: June 4, 2004

By: _____


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